



**MNO La Sierra Neighborhood
February 27, 2008
McAuliffe Elementary School**

Code Enforcement:

Q – There is an apartment complex at 10394 Hole Avenue that is blighted. What can the City do to get the owners improve the conditions?

A – Code Enforcement has begun procedures to address reported violations at this property.

Q – Why does the City go into a neighborhood to give a Code Compliance ticket to a house, but not give one to another house which needs to be cited?

A – As I mentioned during Mayor's Night Out, the issue for Code Enforcement is that we have 12 Code Enforcement Officers and last year we responded to over 65,000 cases. Given this large amount of work, we don't have any of our staff proactively initiating cases, but rather attempting to address all complaints received from the public.

Q – What can be done about houses that put cars up on blocks for months on end?

A – [The City of Riverside has a City Code that prohibits inoperative vehicles from being stored outside on private property. These vehicles are subject to abatement \(removal\) action. Call \(951\) 826-5311 and report their locations to Code Enforcement.](#)

Development:

Q – What is planned for the old Macys location at the Galleria?

A – Federated, the parent company of Macy's, still has a long-term lease on the abandoned Macy's building, which is actually owned by a family trust. General Growth Properties, owner of the Galleria at Tyler, is investigating their options to control the property for future growth and expansion of the mall.

Q – What is planned for the old Lucky's Center location on Magnolia Avenue near Tyler Street?

A – The approved mixed-use development plan for Magnolia Square (former Lucky's center) includes 34,000 sq. ft. of new retail fronting Magnolia Ave., the remodel of existing retail buildings, which has since been completed, and construction of 193 for-sale condominiums to the rear of the retail center.

Parks, Recreation & Community Service

Q – Can be done about the landscaping on Riverwalk Parkway? There seems to be a lot of dead or dying plant life in the area.

A – Staff has been working with the developer, the local homeowner's association and the landscape contractor in developing an improvement plan for the landscaping. Recently, the developer has dredged the lake and stream systems to ensure adequate water delivery to the irrigation system.

In the next 60 days the City will be working throughout the entire Riverwalk area and planting trees, trimming trees, cutting back and planting additional plant material, renovating the dog parks, slurry sealing and striping the parking lots, performing bridge maintenance and trail work.

Planned improvements should be completed by the end of the summer.

Planning:

Q – What is happening with the townhomes that were started and not completed at Magnolia and the 91 Freeway?

A – The property in question has been taken over by the bank that held the note for the construction. The bank is reviewing the condition of the property to determine what needs to be done to complete the project. Ultimately, either the bank will complete the project or the City will take action under Riverside Municipal Code 6.11 to address the buildings as abandoned structures.

Q – What can be done to make sure the housing units on Polk between Magnolia Avenue and Cochran are finished?

A – This property is similar to the property mentioned above. The bank has taken possession and is determining the costs to complete the project. If the bank does not complete the project, the City will enforce the provisions of RMC 6.11, which could include the City declaring the property to be a nuisance, subject to either abatement or rehabilitation (possibly under a Receivership Order from Superior Court).

Public Works:

Q – Is there a way to restrict stores from allowing shopping carts from leaving the store site?

A – The City of Riverside has a municipal code dealing with shopping carts. Ordinance 6820, Section 9.58.060, states, "Every owner shall develop and implement a specific plan to prevent customers from removing carts from the business premises ("prevention plan").

The owner is required to contract with the City's shopping cart retrieval company or install physical measures to prevent cart removal from a business premise.

For assistance with the shopping cart program please contact Cindie Doke, Public Works Manager, at 826-5975.

Q – Can there be more frequent street sweeping in the Florawood Court area?

A – We currently sweep this area every two weeks. The City can provide additional services on an as needed basis. Please contact Jeffrey Smith, Field Services Operations Manager, at 351-6125, to make arrangements. Additionally, the City is in the process of posting all City Streets as no parking on sweeping day. This allows the street sweeper to maintain contact with the curb face and clean the streets as effectively as possible.

The implementation schedule is currently being developed. The City will consider the need of this area when phasing implementation.

Q – There is a growing problem with graffiti in the La Sierra area. What can be done to suppress and clean it up?

A – The City Council has a zero tolerance policy toward graffiti. Graffiti will be cleaned up within 24 hours of report. Further, graffiti criminals will be arrested and required to pay for damages.

The Riverside Police department arrested 270 graffiti criminals in calendar year 2007. The Police Department is on pace to arrest more than 370 graffiti vandals this year.

The Riverside City Attorney's office actively seeks cost recovery from graffiti criminals. Parents are liable for up to \$25,000 for each graffiti incident pursuant to Civil code 1714.1. In the first six months of the fiscal year, the City's Attorney's office handled 42 cases and collected \$27,000 in restitution.

Please assist the City by reporting graffiti to the City of Riverside Call Center at (951) 826-5311. The graffiti will be removed within 24 hours. Residents are also eligible to receive a \$500 reward for tips that lead to the arrest of a graffiti criminal. Report graffiti vandalism in our city when you see it occurring. Please call (951) 787-7911 and ask for your Graffiti Reward.

Q – The sidewalks and gutters in the neighborhood in the between Cochran Avenue and Collett Avenue and La Sierra Avenue and Golden Avenue need to be repaired.

A – The Public Works Department is aware of the need to repair these locations and will place them on an upcoming repair project. The project is expected to go to bid by the middle of May 2008 and construction should begin by the summer of 2008.

Q – What is the procedure for having a speed bump installed? There is a growing problem with high school students driving too fast in our neighborhood.

A – The process is started with the Fire Department approving the street as an appropriate one for speed humps. The residents are then asked to supply a petition with 70% or more of the neighbors agreeing to the concept. Once the petition is received, the street is studied for speeding. If the minimum criteria established by the City Council is met, a report will be sent through for approval to the Parking, Traffic and Streets Commission, and the City Council. A Public Works Department employee will be contacting you to discuss your issues more fully in the coming weeks.

Q – Can we fix the sidewalks where the trees are breaking the sidewalks and pipes? There is a palm tree at Arlington & Fairhaven which is right near the City/County line which is causing a series of problems: the sidewalk needs repair and it is a visual hazard for drivers.

A – The palm tree at this location has recently been removed. The Public Works Department inspected the area and did not find any damage to the sidewalk or pipes.

Q – What can be done about traffic at Arlington and Fairhaven?

A – There is a left turn lane east of the intersection for traffic turning into the tract at Fairhaven, but none for the traffic exiting and trying to turn left out of the tract. The Public Works Department will issue a work order to install a short “waiting area” just west of the intersection. This will allow exiting drivers to have to only look in one direction for a break in the traffic as they wait in the lane.

Q –We need a traffic light at Arlington Avenue and Stover Avenue. There is a blind corner going south on Stover at Arlington as you turn onto Arlington. The traffic moves very fast and it is very dangerous especially since it is right next to Rosemary Kennedy Elementary School.

A –The City Traffic Engineer measured the sight distance and found it meets minimum standards and has determined a light should not be install due in part to the close proximity of a traffic light to the West. The recommendation is for vehicles southbound on Stover that are uncomfortable exiting at Arlington without a signal, to consider using the signal at Mitchell just one block to the west.

Q – What is the timeline for completion of the La Sierra Overpass?

A – The anticipated completion date for the La Sierra Interchange project is September 2009. This includes the removal and reconstruction of two bridges; the La Sierra Overhead (over railroad), and the La Sierra Overcrossing (over Route 91). This project also includes local street improvements, retaining and soundwall construction, Route 91 on and off ramps reconstruction, drainage and landscape improvements.

Q – What is planned for the meridian on Magnolia from La Sierra Avenue westward to Golden Avenue and beyond?

A – A project to improve Magnolia from Tyler Street to the southerly City limits is under design. The project will include enhanced median landscaping,

transportation improvements and improved traffic flow. Construction is anticipated to begin fall 2008.

Q – At the Montlake entrance off of La Sierra, there is a steady stream of traffic through the neighborhood to Magnolia Avenue at dangerous speeds. Can something be done about this?

A – The street has been reduced to two shorter segments with the stop signs installed at Chateau. This has reduced the operating speeds on this segment. In addition, in an effort to discourage vehicles from turning left at Montlake, just to exit at Magnolia, the City will increase the length of time for the turn signal at Magnolia from La Sierra and extend the time of the turn signal at Montlake and La Sierra. The new timing will be implemented in the coming weeks.

Q – What is the update on the quiet zones for the trains in Riverside?

A – The City is in the process of hiring a consultant for the implementation of a railroad Quiet Zone. City Council approval is expected by July 2008. Preliminary and final design including preparation of bid documents, execution of railroad agreements, and filing of applications with California Public Utility Commission (for alterations to at-grade crossings) will take approximately 2 years. Construction of a Quiet Zone corridor is expected to start in the second half of 2010, and will take approximately one year.

Q – Please fix the potholes on Jones, Chadbourne and Stover Avenues.

A – A patch crew has been sent through the mentioned area to repair the potholes.

Q – There are potholes on Sweetwater Street that were “filled” 10 years ago. However, there are problems now. Can the street be resurfaced?

A – The Public Works Department will continue to monitor the condition of this segment of street and perform repairs as necessary.

Q – When is Collett going through to Buchanan?

A – The City currently has initiated preliminary engineering design/planning for the Collett Avenue extension. The City is also exploring funding options for the construction of this segment of street as a capital improvement project for the upcoming fiscal year.

Q – Can there be more street cleaning in the La Sierra area, particularly on Foote Court?

A – We currently sweep this area every two weeks. The City can provide additional services on an as needed basis. Please contact Jeffrey Smith, Field Services Operations Manager, at 351-6125, to make arrangements. Additionally, the City is in the process of posting all City Streets as no parking on sweeping day. This allows the street sweeper to maintain contact with the curb face and clean the streets as effectively as possible.

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Other:

Q – What are the electronic devices on the light pole? Are they WiFi hotspots?

A – The electronic devices are Wireless Access Points. AT&T is installing them to deliver free WiFi for computers (residences and business) throughout Riverside and the City will use it for internal applications (traffic signals, parking meters, public safety).